

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
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UNCLAS ATHENS 2104

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GR/TU
SUBJECT: CARAMANLIS CALLS MONTREUX SUMMIT A SUCCESS -
OPPOSITION LEADER LABELS IT A DEADLOCK

REF: A) ATHENS 2059 (DTG 1549Z 10 MAR 78) NOTAL
B) ATHENS 1856 (DTG 1032Z 6 MAR 78) NOTAL

1. SUMMARY: CARAMANLIS PUBLICLY CALLED HIS SUMMIT MEETING WITH
ECEVIT "USEFUL" AND A "SUCCESS," GIVEN THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT
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WAS HELD. IT HAD MADE POSSIBLE PERSONAL CONTACT BETWEEN THE TWO
LEADERS AND STARTED A DIALOGUE. OPPOSITION LEADER PAPANDREOU ON THE
OTHER
HAND, CLAIMED THE SUMMIT ENDED IN A DEADLOCK AND WOULD LEAD TO GREEK
CONCESSIONS, IF IT HAD NOT ALREADY DONE SO. HE CRITICIZED THE
PRIME MINISTER FOR AGREEING TO GO TO MONTREUX AND CALLED ON HIM TO
REPORT TO PARLIAMENT ON THE MEETING. WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS, MEDIA

COVERAGE OF THE SUMMIT HAS BEEN FAIRLY UPBEAT, REFLECTING CARAMANLIS' REMARKS. END SUMMARY

2. CARAMANLIS RETURNED TO ATHENS FROM MONTREUX AT THE BEGINNING OF A THREE-DAY WEEKEND WHICH HAS MEANT LIMITED MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE SUMMIT SO FAR. THIS HAS BEEN COMPOUNDED BY THE SPARSE OFFICIAL BRIEFING BY THE GREEK SIDE ON THE DISCUSSIONS. THUS MOST OF THE REPORTING ON THE SUMMIT RESULTS IS BASED ON REMARKS BY CARAMANLIS HIMSELF WHO DESCRIBED HIS MEETING WITH THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER AS "USEFUL" AND "SUCCESSFUL." IN CARAMANLIS' WORDS, THE SUMMIT HAD ACHIEVED THE PURPOSES SET FORTH BY BOTH GOVERNMENT WHEN THEY ANNOUNCED IT WOULD TAKE PLACE. (REF B).

3. IN REMARKS TO NEWSMEN BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM GENEVA, ON THE AIRCRAFT DURING HIS RETURN TRIP AND ON ARRIVAL AT ATHENS AIRPORT, CARAMANLIS MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- THE FOREMOST POSITIVE ELEMENT RESULTING FROM THE SUMMIT WAS THE PERSONAL CONTACT BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS.
- REJECTION OF THE DIALOGUE PROPOSED BY ECEVIT WOULD HAVE CREATED TENSION, WHEREAS THE SUMMIT OBTAINED THE AVOIDANCE OF PROVOCATIONS.
- EACH SIDE NOW KNOWS THE OTHER'S VIEWS. BOTH WILL STUDY WHAT WAS DISCUSSED AND THE TWO LEADERS WILL MEET AGAIN, POSSIBLY AT THE NATO SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON NEXT MAY, AFTER PREPARATIONS HAD BEEN COMPLETED.
- GREEK VIEWS ON CYPRUS WERE KNOWN: THE TWO COMMUNITIES ARE HANDLING THE PROBLEM. GREECE AND TURKEY ARE PREPARED TO LEND THEIR GOOD OFFICES, IF THE TWO CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES ASK THEN TO DO SO. HE

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TOLD ECEVIT HE WILL HAVE TO MAKE REASONABLE PROPOSALS IF HE WANTS A DIALOGUE TO BEGIN ON CYPRUS.

- ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE, GREECE GIVES PRIORITY TO THE PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED BASED ON INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED PRACTICES (I.E. NEGOTIATIONS). PROGRESS ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WILL OCCUR ONCE

THE PROCEDURES ARE ESTABLISHED, PERHAPS AT THE NEXT MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS.

- CARAMANLIS REFUSED TO COMMENT ON ECEVIT'S CRITICISM OF SECRETARY VANCE'S RECENT STATEMENT CONCERNING THE ARMS EMBARGO. HE SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO GET INVOLVED IN US-TURKISH DISPUTES.

4. PASOK OPPOSITION LEADER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, LABELLED THE SUMMIT A "DEADLOCK" AS, HE SAID, HE HAD PREDICTED WOULD BE THE CASE. IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT, PAPANDREOU CHARGED THE ENCOUNTER HAD LED TO INDIRECT BUT SUBSTANTIVE BACK-TRACKING ON GREEK SOVEREIGN RIGHTS. HE REFERRED TO UNNAMED RELIABLE SOURCES AS SAYING ECEVIT HAD REPEATED AT THE SUMMIT TURKEY'S WELL KNOWN POSITION CALLING

FOR THE FULL AND IMMEDIATE DISARMING OF THE AEGEAN ISLANDS, AND THAT THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER CALLED THE AEGEAN DISPUTE A POLITICAL ONE, THEREBY ATTEMPTING TO PLACE IN DOUBT GREECE'S SOVEREIGN RIGHTS.

THE PASOK CHIEFTAIN DEMANDED THAT CARAMANLIS EXPLAIN WHY HE HAD AGREED TO EXAMINE ECEVIT'S "IMPUDENT PROPOSALS" SINCE TO DO SO WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER TO ASSUME HIS DEMANDS WERE NEGOTIABLE AND ENCOURAGE HIM FURTHER. THIS, PAPANDREOU MAINTAINED, WOULD LEAD TO A SITUATION WHEREBY THE ALTERNATIVES WOULD BE EITHER MILITARY CONFRONTATION OR SUBSTANTIVE CONCESSIONS BY GREECE AT FUTURE MEETINGS. FURTHERMORE, HE CHARGED, SINCE THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS WAS BEING CONDUCTED UNDER "WESTERN PRESSURE," IT MUST BE DEDUCTED THAT IT COULD ONLY HARM GREECE. IN CONCLUSION, HE CHALLENGED CARAMANLIS TO REPORT ON THE MONTREUX SUMMIT IN PARLIAMENT.

5. THE SUMMIT MEETING WAS THE FEATURE NEWS STORY IN THE GREEK MEDIA OVER THE WEEKEND. COVERAGE WAS GENERALLY POSITIVE AND DEALT MOSTLY UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH THE CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH WAS APPARENTLY ESTABLISHED BETWEEN CARAMANLIS AND ECEVIT, AND THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS FROM BOTH CAMPS. THE LIMITED PRESS REPORTING (THERE WERE NO NEWSPAPERS ON MONDAY, A HOLIDAY, OR TUESDAY MORNING) WAS GENERALLY UPBEAT IN TONE. MOST STORIES UNDERLINED THE FACT THE TWO LEADERS HAD HAD A SINCERE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND WOULD CONTINUE THEIR DIALOGUE, WHICH WAS A GOOD DEVELOPMENT. A SENSE OF RELIEF PREVAILED IN SOME ACCOUNTS THAT GREECE HAD EMERGED FROM THE SUMMIT WITHOUT HAVING MADE ANY COMMITMENTS AGAINST ITS INTERESTS. OTHERS HIGHLIGHTED THAT CARAMANLIS HAD REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE THE CYPRUS QUESTION, BUT INSTEAD HE HAD MERELY LISTENED TO AN OUTLINE OF THE PROPOSALS THE TURKISH SIDE WILL BE MAKING. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS MENTIONED THE LACK OF HARD INFORMATION AS TO WHAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED, WHILE MANY CONTRASTED ECEVIT'S EAGERNESS TO MEET WITH THE PRESS WITH CARAMANLIS' APPARENT RETICENCE TO DO SO. ONLY THE COMMUNIST PRESS WAS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF THE SUMMIT AND ACCUSED THE US AND NATO COUNTRIES OF BEING INVOLVED. MCCLOSKEY

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